विमानों के परिचालन हेतु सुरत हवाई अड्डे की स्थिति

459. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सूरत का हवाई अड्डा इंडियन एयरलाइन्स के विमान बेड़े के विमानों के परिचालन के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा इसे विमानों के परिचालन के उपयुक्त बनाने के लिए क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं।

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद): (क) से (ग) सूरत हवाई अड्डे का धावनपथ इस तरह के विमानों के उड़ान भरने योग्य नहीं है, जो इंडियन एयरलाइंस के पास हैं। यह हवाई अड्डा राज्य सरकार का है। राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण की इसके उन्नयन की कोई योजना नहीं है।

Shortage of pilots in Indian Airlines

460. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "IA may fall short of pilots" appearing in the Times of India (Bombay edition) dated January 24, 1994; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The press report is about shortage of pilots in Indian Airlines, shortage of Instructors at Central Training Establishment, Hyderabad, increase in Flight and Duty Time Limitations. Certain incidents on 31st October, 1993 and 3rd January, 1994 have also been reported. It is true that 111 pilots of Indian Airlines have resigned causing a shortage of pilots. While the present schedule of operations is being met with the existing strength, fleet utilisation can be enhanced only by training more commanders and by increasing the flight duties of existing pilots.

Indian Airlines has signed a settlement with Indian Commercial Pilots' Association in November, 1993 providing for increased flying hours and a revised training pattern. A detaild training programme has been drawn up and the number of Instructors has been increased.

As regards the incidents, Directorate General of Civil Aviation is enquiring into the matter.

Vacant Post of DGCA

461. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of DGCA is lying vacant since long;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the post is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) to (c) Consequent on the appointment of the then DGCA as Secretary, Department of Revenue, the post DGCA fell vacant. The next most senior officer is discharging the functions of DGCA.

Action has already been initiated to fill up the post of DGCA.

Investments from Oman in Hotel Projects of Kerala

462. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Omani investments are likely to find their way in hotel projects in Kerala;

(b) if so, what is the expected investment from Oman;

(c) whether the Hotel Projects have been cleared by the Central Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Government is aware that Omani investors are interested in hotel projects in India.

No specific proposal has been received.